

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAA-01 SSM-03 IO-13  
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00  
INRE-00 /089 W  
-----010447 211458Z /41

O P 211400Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8821  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 4132

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI ASEC, LE  
SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION: JULY 21, 1300 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 4090 (DTG 201307Z JUL 78)

1. SUMMARY. IKE REPORTED THAT THE CABINET HAD  
DECIDED TO RELIEVE MAJORS HADDAD AND SHIDIAK, BUT OUR  
SOURCES REPORT THIS IS UNTRUE. THE GOL CONFIRMED  
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THAT SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM'S VISIT HAS BEEN  
POSTPONED. THE SECURITY SITUATION REMAINED CALM BUT  
TENSE. IN NORTH LEBANON A PHALANGE LEADER WAS REPORTED  
TO HAVE BEEN DETAINED BY FOLLOWERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT  
FRANJIYAH. ADDITIONAL ARMY TROOPS WERE DEPLOYED IN  
BEIRUT PORT AFTER CHRISTIAN PROTESTS THAT THE ORIGINAL  
UNIT DEPLOYED WAS TOO MUSLIM IN MAKE-UP. VARIOUS

POLITICIANS COMMENTED ON THE ARMY, WITH MUSLIMS STRESSING THE REORGANIZATION NEEDED TO ELIMINATE SECRETARIAN BIAS. CHRISTIAN LEADERS STATED THAT THE ARMY SHOULD BE DEPLOYED THROUGHOUT "ALL OF BEIRUT" AND EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT MUSLIM RESERVATIONS TO SUCH A MOVE. THE MARONITE PATRIARCH PLANNED TO VISIT EUROPEAN CAPITALS. A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC RESHUFFLE AFFECTING 50 AMBASSADORS WAS CONFIRMED. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS REPORTS HADDAD AND SHIDIAK TO BE RELIEVED.

ACCORDING TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IKE ON 21 JULY, THE LEBANESE CABINET MEETING OF 19 JULY "TENTATIVELY APPROVED A DECISION TO DISMISS MAJOR SA'AD HADDAD AND MAJOR SAMI SHIDIAK," THE LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS IN SOUTH LEBANON. IKE, CITING "INFORMED SOURCES" SAID THAT THE DECISION TO DISMISS HADDAD AND SHIDIAK" WAS TAKEN IN PREPARATION FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF LEBANESE ARMY UNITS IN SOUTH LEBANON." THERE WAS, HOWEVER, NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THE REPORT, AND ACCORDING TO EMBASSY AND DATT SOURCES, THE CABINET MADE NO DECISIONS REGARDING HADDAD, AND SHIDIAK, OR THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE ARMY SOUTH.

3. KHADDAM'S VISIT DELAYED.

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FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTER FUAD BOUTROS ON 20 JULY ANNOUNCED THAT THE VISIT OF SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABD-AL-HALIM KHADDAM, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK, HAD BEEN POSTPONED FOR "A WEEK OR SO." (SEE ALSO PREVIOUS SITREP). ACCORDING TO BOUTROS, KHADDAM HAD TO BE IN DAMASCUS FOR A VISIT BY KING HUSAYN OF JORDAN AND THEN WAS REQUIRED TO TRAVEL TO BELGRADE TO PREPARE FOR THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS CONFERENCE. KHADDAM IS NOW EXPECTED TO TRAVEL TO LEBANON AT THE FINISH OF THAT CONFERENCE. NLP MILITIA LEADER DANY CHAMOUN STATED THAT THE POSTPONEMENT HAD "FROZEN" THE SITUATION IN BEIRUT.

4. SECURITY SITUATION.

A. THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE CAPITAL REMAINED CALM, BUT WITH UNDERLYING TENSION. TRAFFIC WAS HEAVY IN BOTH WEST AND EAST BEIRUT, BUT REMAINED LARGELY CONFINED TO ONE SECTION OF THE CITY OR THE OTHER WITH LITTLE INTERCHANGE. SHOPS WERE LARGELY OPEN IN BOTH SECTIONS OF THE CITY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF

ASHRAFIYAH, MOST OF WHOSE INHABITANTS HAD LEFT THE AREA, AND IN THE TRADITIONAL BATTLEFIELDS AROUND AYN AR-RUMMANEH AND ASH SHIAH. ARMED CHRISTIAN FIGHTERS WERE PRESENT ON THE STREETS IN ASHRAFIYAH.

B. IN NORTH LEBANON TWO ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADES WERE FIRED AT THE HOME OF DEPUTY FUAD GHOSN IN THE VILLAGE OF KOUSBA IN THE KURA DISTRICT ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT, THE PRESS REPORTED. GHOSN IS A SUPPORTER OF FORMER PRESIDENT SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH. IN SOUTH LEBANON RIGHTIST MILITIAS HARASSED LEBANESE VILLAGERS ON THURSDAY NIGHT, ACCORDING TO Wafa. THE REASON GIVEN FOR THE HARASSMENT WAS THE VILLAGERS FAILURE TO RESPOND TO A CALL BY COMMANDERS OF THE RIGHTIST FORCES TO JOIN

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5. PHALANGE LEADER ALLEGEDLY DETAINED BY FRANJIYAH.

ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT LE JOUR OF 21 JULY, FARAJ OBEID, CHIEF OF THE PHALANGE SECTION IN RMEIL, AND A MEMBER OF THE PHALANGE MILITARY COUNCIL, WAS "ARRESTED" IN NORTH LEBANON BY SUPPORTERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH. OBEID IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF THE ATTACK ON IHDIN IN WHICH FRANJIYAH'S SON TONY WAS KILLED ALONG WITH 32 OTHERS. IT IS ALSO RUMORED THAT  
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OBEID WAS ONE OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "BLACK SUNDAY" EVENTS IN APRIL, 1975 WHICH SET OFF THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR.

6. BEIRUT PORT.

ADDITIONAL LEBANESE ARMY TROOPS HAVE BEEN MOVED INTO BEIRUT PORT AFTER CHRISTIAN LEADERS OBJECTED TO THE CONFESSIONAL BALANCE OF THE ORIGINAL UNIT ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES. ON 20 JULY PREDOMINENTLY CHRISTIAN TROOPS FROM SARBA BARRACKS WERE MOVED INTO BEIRUT PORT TO AUGMENT THE 100 MAN UNIT WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DEPLOYED THERE FROM SIDON. THE ORIGINAL UNIT WAS APPROXIMATELY EIGHTY PERCENT MUSLIM, ACCORDING TO DATT SOURCES. THE ARMY UNITS, HOWEVER, HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER THE SECURITY OF THE PORT. (SEE PREVIOUS SITREPS.) AID OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE PORT IS EXPECTED TO REOPEN THIS WEEKEND, BUT WERE CAUTIONED AT THE SAME TIME THAT THERE WERE STILL SNIPERS WHICH REMAINED IN THE AREA.

7. POLITICIANS' STATEMENTS ON THE ARMY.

A. ON 20 JULY PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL-HOSS HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH SEVERAL PROMINENT POLITICIANS, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, WHICH CENTERED AROUND THE ISSUE OF THE LEBANESE ARMY. HOSS TALKED WITH:

--KAMAL SHATILA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL FRONT. SHATILA TOLD REPORTERS THAT IN THE MEETING HE HAD STRESSED "THE NEED TO ELIMINATE SECTARIAN ADMINISTRATION FROM THE ARMY."

--SHAFIK WAZZAN, PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL, WHO LATER TOLD REPORTERS "THE QUESTION OF THE ARMY HAS TOP

PRIORITY NOW."

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B. HOUSE SPEAKER KAMAL ASAD ALSO HELD TALKS WITH LEADING POLITICIANS, MOST OF WHOM STRESSED THE NEED TO CHANGE THE STRUCTURE OF THE ARMY TO MAKE IT MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEBANESE PEOPLE.

C. ON 20 JULY, DANY CHAMOUN, LEADER OF THE NLP MILITIA CALLED FOR THE LEBANESE ARMY TO TAKE OVER SECURITY DUTIES IN BEIRUT. CHAMOUN STATED THAT THE ARMY IS "READY AND CAPABLE TO DO SO." CHAMOUN EMPHASIZED THAT WHEN HE TALKED OF BEIRUT HE MEANT "ALL OF BEIRUT" AND THAT HE MADE "NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN ONE PART OF THE CAPITAL AND ANOTHER."

D. IN HIS 20 JULY PRESS CONFERENCE, PHALANGE LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT "OBJECTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY IN BEIRUT." GEMAYEL SAID THAT HE WAS "ESPECIALLY SURPRISED" BY CALLS THAT THE ARMY BE RESTRUCTURED BEFORE IT IS DEPLOYED. (SEVERAL MUSLIM LEADERS HAVE TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT THE DEPLOYMENT IN WEST BEIRUT OF THE ARMY, WHICH THEY CONSIDER AS ONLY AN EXTENSION OF THE PHALANGE MILITIA, IS UNACCEPTABLE AND WOULD LEAD TO RENEWED FIGHTING INVOLVING THE MUSLIMS.)

8. PATRIARCH TO TOUR EUROPEAN CAPITALS.

ACCORDING TO THE PHALANGIST VOICE OF LEBANON, MARONITE PATRIARCH ANTONIOS BUTRUS KHRAISH IS PLANNING TO VISIT VARIOUS EUROPEAN CAPITALS, INCLUDING PARIS AND THE VATICAN, IN THE "NEAR FUTURE." THE RADI SAID THAT KHRAISH WAS "PESSIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS IN LEBANON."

9. DIPLOMATIC RESHUFFLE.

FOREIGN MINISTER FUAD BOUTROS CONFIRMED ON 20 JULY THAT THE PREVIOUS DAY'S CABINET MEETING HAD "APPROVED A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC RESHUFFLE AFFECTING FIFTY LEBANESE AMBASSADORS,"  
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ACCORDING T IKE. BOUTROS STATED THAT HE COULD NOT REVEAL THE DETAILS OF THE CHANGES UNTIL THE PROPOSED AMBASSADORS WERE ACCEPTED BY THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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